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EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY.

EXPERIMENTS *relating to the* EXPANSION *of* MERCURY. [P. 1.]

By Dr Tiberius Cavallo.

THE difficulty and uncertainty attending the various methods hitherto propoſed for inveſtigating the expanſion of quickſilver, or its increaſe of bulk when rarified by a given degree of heat, determined me to contrive ſome method by which this purpoſe might be effected with more certainty and preciſion. After various experiments, I hit upon the following method, which to me ſeems both new and capable of great accuracy, though in this I may be deceived.

Firſt, having blown a ball to a capillary tube, ſuch as are commonly uſed for thermometers, I weighed it, and found that this empty thermometer was equal to 79,25 grains. This empty glaſs, previous to its being weighed, was rendered as perfectly clean as poſſible, which is a neceſſary precaution in this experiment, as it depends upon a very great accuracy of weight. Then I introduced ſome mercury into the ſtem of this thermometer, taking care that none of it entered the ball, and by adapting a ſcale of inches to the tube, obſerved that 4,3 inches length of the tube was filled with the mercury. The thermometer was now weighed again, and from this weight, the weight of the glaſs found before being ſubtracted, the remainder, viz. 0,24 grains, ſhewed the weight of ſo much quickſilver as filled 4,3 inches of the tube. Now, the ball of the thermometer, and alſo part of the tube, were entirely filled with quickſilver: then, in order to find out the weight of the mercury contained in it, the thermometer was weighed for the laſt time, and from this weight the weight of the glaſs being ſubtracted, the remainder, viz. 32,05 grains, ſhewed the weight of the whole quantity of quickſilver contained in the thermometer.

By compariſon with a graduated thermometer in hot and cold water, I made a ſcale to the new thermometer according to Fahrenheit's, and by applying a ſcale of inches, found that the length of 20 degrees in this ſcale was equal to 1,33 inches. But

0,24 grains was the weight of ſo much mercury as filled 4,3 inches length of the tube; therefore, by the rule of proportion, it will be found, that the weight of ſo much quickſilver as fills 1,33 inches of the tube, viz. the length of 20 degrees, is equal to 0,0742 grains nearly, and that the weight of ſo much quickſilver as fills the length of the tube that is equivalent to one degree, is equal to 0,00371 grains. Now it is clear, that the weight of the whole quantity of quickſilver contained in the thermometer is to the weight of ſo much quickſilver as fills the length of one degree in the tube, as the bulk of the whole quantity of quickſilver in a given degree of heat, to the increaſe of bulk that the ſame whole quantity of quickſilver acquires when heated of but 1 degree; viz. 32,05 grains is to 0,00371 grains, as 1 is to 0,0011+; ſo that by this experiment, it appears that 1 degree of Fahrenheit's thermometer increaſes the bulk of mercury not above $\frac{11}{10000}$th parts. In this proceſs, a ſmall deviation from mathematical exactneſs is occaſioned by the ſmall difference of weight between the quickſilver of the tube when firſt weighed and when it is afterwards heated to 1 degree; but by an eaſy calculation it will be found, that this difference is ſo exceedingly ſmall as not to be perceived by our exacteſt weighing and meaſuring inſtruments.

For clearneſs' ſake, I ſhall ſubjoin the calculation of the above related experiments, diſencumbered from words. Here the decimals are not computed to a very large number, that being unneceſſary for this purpoſe.

Weight of the glaſs,	79,25 grains.
Weight of ſo much quickſilver as filled 4,3 inch. length of the tube,	0,24 grains.
Weight of the whole quantity of quickſilver contained in the thermometer,	32,05 grains.
Length of the tube equal to 20 degrees,	1,33 inches.

4,3 : 0,24 :: 1,33 : 0,0742 = 20 degrees

20° : 0,0742 :: 1 : 0,00371

32,05 : 0,00371 :: 1 : 0,00011 += to the expanſion occaſioned by one degree of heat.

Having repeated this experiment with other thermometers, and by ſimilar calculations, each proceſs gave a reſult little different from the others, which irregularity is certainly owing to the imperfection of my ſcales, which are not of the niceſt ſort: but taking a mean of various experiments, it appears that 1 degree of heat, according to Fahrenheit's thermometer, increaſes the bulk of a quantity of quickſilver of $\frac{1}{10000}$th parts, viz. if the bulk of a quantity of quickſilver in the temperature of 50 degrees is equal to 100,000 cubic inches, the bulk of the ſame quantity of quickſilver in the temperature of 51 degrees will be equal to 100,009 cubic inches.

It is almoſt ſuperfluous to mention, that the cavity of the tubes employed for theſe experiments muſt be perfectly uniform throughout. The ſcales to be uſed for this method ſhould be ſo exact as to be turned by the hundredth part of a grain, when charged with about half an ounce weight.

From theſe obſervations the method of graduating, or of determining the length of a degree in a new thermometer, is eaſily deduced, the only requiſites for the calculation being the weight of a quantity of quickſilver, which fills a known length of the tube, and the weight of the whole quantity of quickſilver contained in the thermometer when filled. Suppoſe, for inſtance, that, in making a new thermometer, it be found that the weight

of ſo much quickſilver as fills five inches length of the tube is equal to ten grains, and that the weight of the whole quantity of quickſilver contained in the thermometer weighs 300 grains; it is plain, that if the whole quantity of quickſilver weighs 300 grains, $\frac{9}{1000}$th parts of it will weigh 0,027 grains. But the weight of ſo much mercury as fills five inches of the tube is equal to 10 grains: therefore, 0,027 grains weight of quickſilver muſt fill 0,013 inches of the tube, and this is equal to the length of 1 degree, or the double, treble, &c. of it is equal to two, three, &c. degrees.

By this means the ſcale may be made, that is, it may be divided into degrees; but the numbers cannot be added to them without finding which of thoſe degrees correſponds with the freezing point or the boiling point. Either the point of boiling or freezing may be found by experiment, or any other point may be aſcertained by compariſon with another thermometer, and then the other degrees are nominated accordingly.

ORIGINAL LETTER *relating to the Death of the Duke of* BUCKINGHAM, *written by Lord* ARRAN *(afterwards Duke of* HAMILTON,*) to Dr* SPRAT, *Biſhop of* ROCHESTER, *formerly Chaplain to the Duke.—Tranſcribed from authentic Memorials of the* VILLARS *Family.*

Kerby-moor Syde, April 19. 1687.

MY LORD,

MERE chance having thrown me into theſe parts by accident, as I was at York, in my journey towards Scotland, I heard of the Duke of Buckingham's illneſs here, which made me take a reſolution of waiting upon his Grace, to ſee what condition he was in. I arrived here on Friday in the afternoon, where I found him in a very low condition: He had been long ill of an ague, which had made him weak; but his underſtanding was as good as ever, and his noble parts were ſo entire, that though I ſaw death in his looks at firſt ſight, he would by no means think of it. He told me he was on horſeback but two days before, and that he found himſelf ſo well at heart, that he was ſure he could be in no danger of his life. He told me he had a mighty deſcent fallen upon his privities, with an inflammation and great ſwelling; but he thought by applying warm medicines the ſwelling would fall, and then he would be at eaſe; but it proved otherwiſe, for a mortification came on theſe parts, which run up upon his belly, and ſo mounted, which was the occaſion of his death. So ſoon as I arrived, I ſent to York for one Dr Waller, for I found him here in a moſt miſerable condition; he deſired me to ſtay with him, which I very willingly obeyed. I confeſs it made my heart bleed to ſee the Duke of Buckingham in ſo pitiful a place, and in ſo bad a condition; and what made it worſe, he was not at all ſenſible of it, for he thought in a day or two he ſhould be well; and when we minded him of his condition, he ſaid it was not ſo as we apprehended. The doctors told me his caſe was deſperate, and though he enjoyed the free exerciſe of his ſenſes, that in a day or two at moſt it would kill him; but they durſt not tell him of it; ſo they put a hard part on me to pronounce death to him, which I ſaw approaching ſo faſt, that I thought it was high time for him to think of another world, for it was impoſſible for him to continue long in this. So I ſent for a very worthy gentleman, Mr Gibſon, a neighbour of his Grace's, who lives but a mile from this place, to be an aſſiſtant to me in this work; ſo we jointly together repreſented his condition to him, which I ſaw was at firſt very uneaſy; but I think we ſhould not have diſcharged the duty of honeſt men, or I of a

faithful kinſman, if we ſhould have ſuffered him to go out of this world without deſiring him to prepare for death, and to look into his conſcience.

After having plainly told him his condition, I aſked him whom I ſhould ſend for to be aſſiſtant to him during the ſmall time he had to live?—He would make me no anſwer, which made me conjecture, and having formerly heard that he had been inclined to be a Roman Catholic, I aſked him if I ſhould ſend for a prieſt; for I thought that any act that could be like a Chriſtian, was what his condition now wanted moſt; but he poſitively told me that he was not of that perſuaſion, and ſo would not hear any more on that ſubject, for he was of the Church of England; but hitherto he would not hear of a parſon, and he had declared his averſion for my offering to him to ſend for a prieſt. But after ſome time, beginning to feel his diſtemper mount, he deſired me to ſend for the parſon of this pariſh, who ſaid prayers for him, which he joined in very freely, but ſtill did not think he ſhould die; though this was yeſterday, at ſeven in the morning, and he died about eleven at night.

Mr Gibſon aſked him if he had made a will, or if he would declare who was to be his heir. But to the firſt he anſwered he had made none; and to the laſt, whoever was named, he always anſwered No. Firſt, my Lady Ducheſs was named, and then I think almoſt every body who had any relation to him; but his anſwer was always, No. And to ſee if he would change any way the anſwer or manner of it, they aſked him if my Lord Purbeck was? but to that he ſaid, By no means. I did fully repreſent my Lady Ducheſs's condition to him; and told him, it was abſolutely fit, during the time he had the exerciſe of his reaſon, to do ſomething to ſettle his affairs, but nothing that could be ſaid to him could make him come to any point.

I then ſaid, that ſince he would do nothing in his worldly affairs, I deſired he might die like a Chriſtian; and ſince he called himſelf of the Church of England, the parſon was ready here to adminiſter the ſacrament to him, which he ſaid he would take. So accordingly I gave orders for it; and two other honeſt gentlemen received it with him, Mr Gibſon and Colonel Liſton, an old ſervant of his Grace's. At firſt he called out three or four times; for he thought the ceremony looked as if death was near, which, for the ſtrength of his noble parts (they not being yet affected), he could not eaſily believe; for all this time he was not willing to take death upon him. But, in a few moments after, he became calm, and received the ſacrament with all the decency imaginable, and in an hour after he loſt his ſpeech, and continued ſo till eleven at night, when he died.

The confuſion he has left his affairs in will make his heir, whoever he be, very uneaſy. To tell you truly, I believe there is no other will in being but what they ſay is in the truſtees hands; for all the ſervants ſay, they knew there was a parchment ſealed, which my Lord ſaid he would alter, which they looked upon to be his will: Whether he has cancelled it, I cannot find; ſome ſay one Mr Burrell has it, but nobody here can give any diſtinct account of it. But my Lord himſelf ſaid poſitively, in the preſence of ſeveral, that he had no will in being, ſo what to make of this, I cannot tell you. We ſuppoſed that it might be Sir William Villars that he intended for his heir, but he ſaid ſeveral times before us all, No: ſo that I cannot imagine, if he has any will, to whom he has given it, I myſelf being as nearly related to him as any by the full blood. Mr Brian Fairfax and Mr Gibſon have

been witneſſes of my proceedings ſince my being here; I hope they will give an account of it. I thought in honour I could not leave him in this condition, being ſo nearly related to him; eſpecially his Grace being in ſuch a retired corner, where there was no body but myſelf, till I ſent for this Mr Gibſon. My Lord Fairfax of Gullen came yeſterday in the afternoon, but he was ſpeechleſs when he came.

I have ordered the corpſe to be embalmed and carried to Helmſley caſtle, and there to remain till my Lady Ducheſs her pleaſure ſhall be known. There muſt be ſpeedy care taken; for there is nothing here but confuſion, not to be expreſſed. Though his ſtewards have received vaſt ſums, there is not ſo much as one farthing, as they tell me, for defraying the leaſt expence. But I have ordered his inteſtines to be buried at Helmſley, where his body is to remain till farther orders.

Being the neareſt kinſman upon the place, I have taken the liberty to give his Majeſty an account of his death, and ſent his George and blue ribband to be diſpoſed as his Majeſty ſhall think fit. I have addreſſed it under cover to my Lord Preſident, to whom I beg you would carry the bearer the minute he arrives.

I have given orders that nothing ſhould be embezzled, and for that reaſon, as ſoon as my Lord died, I called to ſee his ſtrong box, but before Mr Brian Fairfax and Mr Gibſon: I found nothing of moment in it but ſome looſe letters of no concern; but ſuch as they are, I have ordered them to be locked up and delivered to my Lady Ducheſs; as alſo the ſmall plate and linen he had I have committed to the care of Lord Fairfax.

So now that I have given your Lordſhip this particular account of every thing, I have nothing more to do but to aſſure your Lordſhip that I am,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's moſt aſſured
Friend and humble ſervant,
ARRAN.

In the Prerogative Office it appears, that George Duke of Buckingham died without will, and that the Ducheſs, his widow, adminiſtered.

*** Our readers may depend on the authenticity of the above relation, which illuſtrates in a ſtriking manner ſome of the moſt beautiful lines in Pope's epiſtles:——

"In the worſt inn's worſt room," &c.

STATE PAPER.

SECOND REPORT *of the* COMMITTEE *appointed to enquire into the Illicit Practices now uſed in defrauding the Revenue of the Kingdom.*

(*Concluded from our laſt*, p. 9).

IT is farther ſtated to your Committee, That the act 19 Geo. III. cap. 69, having declared veſſels to be forfeited only when under 200 tons, and found hovering within the prohibited diſtance from the coaſts of this kingdom,—it is underſtood, that a ſmuggling veſſel cannot be ſeized and condemned on the hovering acts, if above 200 tons, which many of ſuch veſſels now are. There is a clauſe too in the ſame act, which authoriſes the breaking up of veſſels under 100 tons, if ſeized, for importation; and under 50 tons, for hovering. Under this diſtinction, ſhips of a larger ſize, though forfeited, are given out to the claimants, on ſecurity to anſwer the appraiſed value, and frequently returned to the ſmuggiers,

who are thereby enabled to continue their illicit practices in the ſame veſſels, with little interruption. The obvious remedies for theſe different inconveniences will be reſerved by your Committee for their ſubſequent report.

And here it may not be immaterial to mention another defect in the laws, which has contributed much to the preſent formidable mode of ſmuggling. Perſons guilty of obſtructing, wounding, or ſhooting at officers of cuſtoms or exciſe, within the limits of a port, are ſubject to tranſportation by the act of 9 Geo. II. and to death by the 19th Geo. II. but no puniſhment is yet inflicted by any ſtature on perſons guilty of oppoſing and hindering, with violence, ſuch officers from ſeizing goods liable to forfeiture, on board of veſſels hovering within two leagues of the ſhore, or at any greater diſtance.

It is farther repreſented to your Committee, that the ſmuggling practices, in different parts of the kingdom are rather encouraged, than effectually puniſhed, by the too favourable judgments of Juſtices of the Peace; the penalties of treble value, for unſhipping, receiving, or harbouring run goods, as well as for other purpoſes, being too often migitated to trifling and inconſiderable ſums.

The Scotch Commiſſioners of Exciſe are of opinion, that the ſmugglers are induced to enter ill-founded litigious claims, and conſequently to diſcourage the officers of the revenue from a vigorous diſcharge of their duty, by the ſmallneſs of the ſum in which the defendants are by law obliged to find ſecurity to anſwer the coſts occaſioned by the claims: that ſum, by the 3d of his preſent Majeſty, was extended to 60l. but the expences attending mere vexatious claims have, in ſome inſtances, amounted to ſome hundred pounds.

In the courſe of our enquiries into the abuſe of permits, it appeared to your Committee, that during a late period of three years, there were removed by permits, from one place in the country to London, more than three times the quantity of Britiſh ſpirits than paid any legal duty. In one year this proportion was much greater, the quantity which paid duty being only 3000 tons, and the quantity removed by permit being, according to information given to your Committee, 19,000 tons.

By the act of 1ſt James I. cap. 22. confirmed by act 9 Anne, cap. 11. curriers are prohibited from exerciſing, at the ſame time, the trade of tanners; this law, however, is not underſtood to extend to Scotland, and the defect has often been found to be prejudicial to the duty upon hides, in that part of the united kingdom.

Many of the diſtant iſlands and places in the northern and weſtern parts of Scotland are ſo thinly peopled, that they cannot defray the charges of officers of the revenue ſtationed to collect the duties of exciſe, and other duties: to remedy this, the Lords Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, or perſons ſpecially appointed by the Crown, are authoriſed by law to grant leaſes of ſuch duties, for a term not exceeding three years: it is ſtated to your Committee, that this remedy is very inadequate to the preſervation of the revenue.

Your Committee have received a repreſentation from the proprietors of ſalt works in Scotland, which ſtates, that their manufactory is now ſuffering extremely, by the clandeſtine introduction of ſalt from Ireland into the weſt coaſt of Scotland, which the Iriſh are enabled to furniſh at very low prices, by getting rock ſalt from England free of duty: they ſtate alſo, that a great abuſe reſults from the act of Parliament granting liberty to import Iriſh ſalt into Clyde, for the purpoſe of curing fiſh; and that from theſe circumſtances they have been obliged to reduce the number of

their ſalt pans, and conſequently that their manufactory is ſinking, as well as the revenue reſulting from it.

Tobacco.

Your Committee poſtponed, in their Firſt Report, a particular conſideration of the ſtate of the revenue reſulting from the duties of tobacco, the trade in that very valuable commodity being at preſent in a very unſettled ſtate: It may be material, however, to obſerve, that the abuſe reſulting from the allowances of 10lb. weight per hogſhead free of duty, given by act 24 George II. to the importer, for the waſte of tobacco; and by another abuſe uſed in drawing the ſample to the amount generally of more than 10lb. per hogſhead, before the tobacco is weighed; and alſo from certain practices attending the drawbacks on the exportation of the article; may deſerve an early attention.

Upon this article it may be material farther to obſerve, that the illicit introduction of tobacco into Scotland, has lately been attempted with ſucceſs, by veſſels arriving directly from Virginia, and landing their cargoes upon the coaſt.

Your Committee have alſo been informed of another ſpecies of illicit trade in this article, which has lately been practiſed in ſome of the Scotch ports: Upon the arrival of a veſſel with tobacco, offers are made to the importer, by ſome perſon who purſues ſmuggling profeſſionally; the tobacco is purchaſed for exportation, at a price beyond what the honeſt trader can afford; it is then reported for exportation, to ſome place for which no certificate of its being really landed is required by law, and is afterwards clandeſtinely relanded upon different parts of the coaſt.

The frauds reſulting in this article from the abuſe of certificates or permits, are various and very expenſive, and appear to be daily upon the increaſe, though accompanied in many inſtances with perjury. The laws are perhaps capable of much improvement upon this point; yet much fraud unhappily muſt be expected, even after every improvement that can be made in the laws, where the duties are very high upon articles intrinſically of little value. Tobacco is worth about three-pence per pound weight, clear of duties; and the duties, at the loweſt rate, are about one ſhilling and three-pence; the inducement therefore is in the proportion of five to one; and the ſucceſs in ſmuggling two hogſheads amply compenſates for the loſs of the other three.

The Engliſh Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms have repreſented to your Committee, that it is now become a practice to import prohibited and high duty goods in the ſhort traders from Holland and other foreign parts, which are intended to be clandeſtinely introduced into this kingdom; but in order to avoid the ſeizure and forfeiture, they are brought into port under pretence that they are deſigned for exportation, and are frequently reported for exportation accordingly to foreign parts; after which they are privately conveyed on ſhore; a ſimilar practice is founded on the ſales of prohibited ſeized goods, which when permitted to be taken aboard for exportation in the port of London, are very frequently relanded before the veſſel arrives at Gravefend. The remedies ſuggeſted to your Committee will be introduced into their ſubſequent report.

Starch.

Since the cloſing of their Firſt Report, your Committee has received information, that great frauds are carrying on in the buſineſs of ſtarch; partly by clandeſtine manufacturers,

in places unknown to the officers of excise, which are attributed to the smallness of the penalty; and partly by importations, which are said to be made from Scotland, at a price below what the fair manufacturer in England can afford. Your Committee reserve the means of prevention, which have been suggested, for future discussion.

Wax Candles.

Farther applications have also been made to this Committee on behalf of the makers and venders of wax candles. The smuggling practices in this article are become so prevalent as to endanger the total loss of the revenue dependent upon it.

Soap.

Exclusive of the frauds already reported with respect to the soap duties, your Committee are informed, that it is not unusual to import, clandestinely, soap into this kingdom from Ireland, in hogsheads lined with tallow, that article being exempt from duty.

Licences on Hawkers and Pedlars.

Your Committee find, that the laws for licensing hawkers, pedlars, and petty chapmen, have been found defective in many instances; that such licences are granted indiscriminately to all persons applying for the same; there being no discretionary power vested in the Commissioners appointed for issuing licences; on which account they are too frequently granted to improper persons, who, by the abuse of such protection, are said to act greatly to the facility of conveying smuggled goods through the kingdom.

It is stated by the Commissioners, that it was intended by the act 9th and 20th William III. that every hawker travelling with one horse, &c. should pay a duty of 8l. per annum, and for every other horse, &c. an additional duty of 4l. for each horse—but that, by a mistake, the word year stands in the act, instead of the word beast: through which mistake, persons taking out such licence have hitherto paid only a duty of 8l. per annum for a licence, though they travelled with three or four horses.

It is also stated, that the description of a hawker is too limited, and ought to be extended so as to affect all those that send goods by land or water carriage, or carry or convey goods from one town or place to another, instead of from town to town; the courts of law having already determined, that barely going from one town to another does not constitute a hawker. The Commissioners further state, that the penalty of 12l. for travelling without a licence, is found inadequate to the offence; and that Surveyors are embarrassed by being obliged to carry offenders before a Justice of the Peace for the county where the offence is committed, instead of being permitted to carry them before the nearest Justice.

It appears, by an account delivered to your Committee, of the gross and net produce of the duties arising from licensing hawkers and pedlars, from 1769 to 1773, that the gross amount was 30,499l. 14s. which, after deducting the charges of management, produced a net revenue of 19,867l. 17s. 4d. and by the like account from 1778 to 1782, the gross amount was 31,231l. 4s. and the net produce 19,979l. 4s. 6d.

A petition of the corn distillers, in and about the city of London, having been referred by the House to this Committee, the Commissioners of Excise were required to examine the facts contained therein, and to report the same to your Committee.

Your Committee will here close

the detail of their enquiries into the illicit practices uſed in defrauding the revenue. They have endeavoured to lay before the Houſe a ſhort and comprehenſive view of every particular that has been brought within their obſervation, except only ſuch circumſtances as appear to be either too inconſiderable to merit the interference of Parliament, or of a nature inexpedient to be publiſhed, or of a deſcription which may properly fall under the cognizance and correction of the boards of revenue. The ſyſtem of taxation created by the public neceſſities, has opened a large field for the exerciſe of intereſted ingenuity; and it is but too probable that many frauds are ſucceſsfully purſued in different branches, both of trade and manufacture, to a great extent, which have eſcaped the obſervation of your Committee. But the prevention of the evil practices already aſcertained, with reſpect both to force and fraud, if poſſible to be accompliſhed to any conſiderable degree (and it can only be accompliſhed by vigorous and ſtrong meaſures), furniſhes ample matter of attention for the preſent ſeſſion, and is of eſſential importance both to the revenue and to public credit, and to the manners, morals, and due employment of the people of this kingdom.

Your Committee, under this ſenſe and conſtruction of the duties conſided to them, will next proceed to ſtate the moſt effectual methods of prevention, ſo far as they have been able to collect information, and to form opinions thereon.

New CHARACTER *of the Right Hon.* *CHARLES JAMES FOX.*

MR FOX is one of the moſt extraordinary perſonages that ever appeared in the Britiſh annals. His matchleſs eloquence has long diſtinguiſhed him above all his contemporaries, and he unites with it a profound penetration, and a manly vigour in determination, ſeldom found conjoined with more ſhowy talents. In him they ſeem to be derived from the ſame ſource, the univerſal fertility of his invention, and the commanding ſuperiority of his judgment. As an orator, Mr Fox never deſcends to that ſort of declamation which is vulgarly called eloquence. He never deigns to venture a witticiſm, unleſs it conveys ſome ſtriking picture of his argument. It is by the irreſiſtible force of his reaſoning, the plain incontrovertible good ſenſe ſo conſpicuous in all his ſpeeches, and his fair, open, unequivocal conduct, that he gains your confidence.

The courſe of his thoughts, and of his utterance, is ſo rapid, that thoſe unaccuſtomed to hear him ſpeak have great difficulty in following his crowded ideas; a defect that ariſes from the aſtoniſhing quickneſs of his inventive faculty, and is directly oppoſite to the fault commonly obſerved in orators. They tire you for want of argument; Mr Fox gives you more than you have leiſure to examine.

Great Britain has as yet had only a ſhort trial of Mr Fox as a miniſter; but, in that ſhort time, he fully demonſtrated that his genius was not confined within St Stephen's chapel. Indefatigable induſtry in his application to buſineſs, vigour and addreſs in negociation, that high and lofty ſpirit which the miniſter of a great nation ought to poſſeſs, marked his public hiſtory. He corrected the blunders of the preliminaries, turned ſeveral doubtful circumſtances in our favour, and there is the greateſt reaſon to believe, had he been miniſter, that a treacherous deſertion of our friends had not ſtained the Britiſh name with infamy. He never was even accuſed of corruption when miniſter; he never engaged in the ſhameful traffic of places. He purpoſely choſe an office which has

no annexed patronage, that he might be more at liberty to ſtudy and direct the great national concerns: A great outcry was made by the faction which oppoſed him on account of his Eaſt India bill; that meaſure, and his coalition with Lord North, are held out as the chief objections to his public conduct. As to the India bill, I ſhall only obſerve, that thoſe who know the perſons he fixed on for commiſſioners, will not ſuſpect his diſintereſtedneſs, his main object being the ſettlement of that diſtracted empire. He choſe for that purpoſe men of the firſt characters, and it is ſaid, excepting one gentleman, not in the numerous and reſpectable liſt of his own perſonal friends*. The other accuſation againſt him is ſufficiently refuted by the fact itſelf, and the corrupt abſurdity of his accuſers, in going much greater lengths than he. If he was debarred for ever from acting with Lord North, I will aſk, with whom he was to act? With Lord Shelburne, who had ſo recently betrayed him?

Mr Fox is perhaps the only inſtance that could be pointed out, of a man in this age holding poverty and riches in almoſt equal contempt. When ſo poor, that it is ſaid he could hardly command money to pay a tavern bill, his good ſpirits never left him; he was even then ſuppoſed to be entirely out of the reach of a bribe, which is more extraordinary, when it is conſidered how fond he is of pleaſure, and how profuſe in his expences. Theſe foibles his enemies dwelt on with malignant delight, as if they were more criminal in him than in almoſt every young man of birth, faſhion, and fortune, in theſe degenerate times; whereas, in fact, they are more excuſable; for he who can riſe from a gaming-table with undiminiſhed vigour of mind, whoſe unprepared effuſions have all the ripeneſs and force of deliberate conſideration, unhappily for himſelf indeed, finds, that ſobriety, tedious meditation, and a careful peruſal of authorities before each harangue, is not neceſſary to his political reputation.

In this age, ſo barren of true patriotiſm, inviolate fidelity to party is ſubſtituted as the teſt of a fair public character. The laſt praiſe all allow Mr Fox, and, taking in view the whole tenor of his conduct, I cannot think him undeſerving of the firſt. It is ſuppoſed that he loſt the royal favour by his ſtrenuous exertions in lopping off ſome of the dangerous excreſcences of its power. He was diſplaced as a miniſter on a pretence which could hardly be avowed by any pettifogging attorney; and his room is now filled up by men who are as oppoſite to him in their principles, as they are inferior to him in knowledge, vigour and ability.

XENOPHON.

* It appears to be one of the principal objections to the India bill, that a majority of the Commiſſioners whom Mr Fox had nominated, were either totally ignorant of buſineſs, or naturally ſo indolent as not attend to it, which of conſequence would have thrown the whole weight and management of the Company's affairs upon a minority of the Commiſſioners.

HISTORICAL ANECDOTE *of a remarkable* DUEL.

THE fame of an Engliſh dog has been deſervedly tranſmitted to poſterity by a monument in baſſo relievo, which ſtill remains on the chimney-piece of the grand hall at the caſtle of Montargis, in France. The ſculpture repreſents a dog fighting with a champion, and was occaſioned by the following circumſtance:

Aubri de Mondidier, a gentleman of family and fortune, travelling alone through the foreſt of Bondi, was murdered, and buried under a tree. His dog, an Engliſh blood-hound,

would not quit his maſter's grave for ſeveral days, till at length, compelled by hunger, he went to the houſe of an intimate friend of the unfortunate Aubri's, at Paris, and by his melancholy howling, ſeemed deſirous of expreſſing the loſs they had both ſuſtained. He repeated his cries, ran to the door, then looked back to ſee if any one followed him, returned to his maſter's friend, pulled him by the ſleeve, and with dumb eloquence intreated him to go with him.

The ſingularity of all the actions of the dog, his coming there without his maſter, whoſe faithful companion he always had been, the ſudden diſappearance of his maſter, and, perhaps, that divine diſpenſation of juſtice and events, which will not permit the guilty to remain long undetected, made the company reſolve to follow the dog, who conducted them to the tree, where he renewed his howl, ſcratching the earth with his feet, to ſignify that that was the ſpot they ſhould ſearch. Accordingly, on digging, the body of the unfortunate Aubri was found.

Some time after the dog accidentally met the aſſaſſin, who is ſtiled by all hiſtorians that relate this fact, the Chevalier Macaire; when inſtantly ſeizing him by the throat, it was with great difficulty he was made to quit his prey.

Whenever he ſaw him after, the dog purſued and attacked him with equal fury. Such obſtinate virulence in the animal, confined only to Macaire, appeared extraordinary to thoſe perſons who recollected the dog's fondneſs for his maſter, and at the ſame time ſeveral inſtances wherein Macaire had diſplayed his envy and hatred to Aubri de Mondidier.

Additional circumſtances encreaſed ſuſpicion, which at length reached the royal ear. The King (Lewis VIII.) ſent for the dog. He appeared extremely gentle, till perceiving Macaire, in the midſt of twenty noblemen, he run directly towards him, growled, and flew at him as uſual.

In thoſe times, when no poſitive proof of a crime could be procured, an order was iſſued for a combat between the accuſer and accuſed. Theſe were denominated the judgment of God, from a perſuaſion that Heaven would ſooner work a miracle than ſuffer innocence to periſh with infamy.

The king, ſtruck with ſuch a collection of circumſtantial evidence againſt Macaire, determined to refer the deciſion to the chance of war, or, in other words, he gave orders for a combat between the Chevalier and the dog. The liſts were appointed in the Iſle of Notre-Dame, then an unincloſed, uninhabited place: Macaire's weapon was a great cudgel.

The dog had an empty caſk allowed for his retreat, to recover breath. The combatants being ready, the dog no ſooner found himſelf at liberty, than he ran round his adverſary, avoiding his blows, menacing him on every ſide, till his ſtrength was exhauſted; then ſpringing forward, he griped him by the throat, threw him on the ground, and forced him to confeſs his crime before the king and the whole court. In conſequence of which the Chevalier, after a few days, was convicted upon his own acknowledgment, and beheaded on a ſcaffold in the Iſle of Notre Dame.

The above curious recital is tranſlated from the *Memoirs ſur les Duels*, and is confirmed by many judicious, critical writers, particularly Julius Scaliger and Mountfaucon, neither of them relators of fabulous ſtories.

G.

ADVICE to the ELECTORS of Great Britain.

THE diſſolution of Parliament being now determined upon, a few words to the Electors relative to

their conduct at this critical period, may not be improper. An eminent writer has aſſerted, that "the people of England are only free when a new Houſe of Commons is to be choſen." If this poſition is juſt, they ought indiſputably to conſider that time as moſt precious and important, and to employ it accordingly. The thoughts of a free nation at ſuch a juncture, ſhould not be turned upon preſent, but directed to future intereſts. They ſhould reflect that their conduct will not affect themſelves alone, but that it will operate upon the liberties, property, and happineſs of their children and poſterity in general. If they thus ruminate upon their ſituation, and the duties neceſſarily attendant thereon, they will of courſe in their re-election make choice of proper repreſentatives. They will then ſee the villainy and meanneſs of a paltry bribe. Good ſenſe will dictate to them that the man who offers it means, and has a proſpect to gain by the purchaſe.—They will conſequently refuſe to be the medium of aggrandizing ſuch deſigning characters, and they will naturally treat their baſe temptations with the ſcorn they ſo juſtly merit. Power is now veſted in their hands; they are the preſent guardians of their country; to them Britons at large now look up for protection, and whatever grievances they labour under may now be removed by the honeſt exertions of their conſtitutional authority, virtue, and patriotiſm. At ſuch a period they ſhould be inſpired with the ſpirit of their anceſtors, and poſſeſs themſelves of a true ſenſe of their own dignity.—Let them not be deceived by the ſmile of a Duke, the flattery of an Earl, the familiarity of a Viſcount, the condeſcenſion of a Baron, the humility of a Knight, or the civility of an Eſquire. Theſe are the temporiſing meaſures purſued by thoſe who wiſh to effect temporary purpoſes. In promiſes they are laviſh, in performances they are reluctant. They ſubmit to ſlavery for a few days, in order that they may make ſlaves of their deluded conſtituents for a ſeries of year, or perhaps for a permanency. It becomes both the good ſenſe and the intereſts of electors, to guard againſt ſuch deceptions. They ought to reflect, that no man of ſpirit will bend to the diſgraceful arts of hypocriſy or meanneſs; but that, on the contrary, he will aſſert the rights of his own character, and rather reſign his pretenſions to ſenatorial dignities, than acquire them at the expence of his honour and integrity. The preſent ſituation of affairs demands particular caution and attention; precipitancy ſhould not execute, nor prejudice govern public proceedings. It is now the buſineſs of every man to betake himſelf to an examination of what are the true principles of the conſtitution. This will beſt direct Electors in the choice of Repreſentatives, and form the beſt criterion for framing a teſt to decide the juſtice of their claims to ſeats in the Houſe of Commons. Then may we hope, that what we have inherited from the wiſdom, courage, and blood of our forefathers, will not be loſt and abandoned, nor the ſpirit of the conſtitution ſacrificed at the ſhrine of prerogative.

A. B.

[*The following extraordinary Account of a magnificent Air Balloon that was diſplayed at Naples, is contained in a Letter from thence, dated Feb.* 19.—*but for the authenticity of it we cannot vouch.*]

Deſcription of a GRAND AEROSTATIC GLOBE *diſplayed at* Naples, *Feb* 18. 1784.

HIS Majeſty the King of Sweden having expreſſed a deſire to ſee the experiment of the air-balloon, there was on the 18th a grand exhibition by order of the Court of Naples, and in the preſence of their Majeſties. Perhaps it was the nobleſt ſight the human eye was ever yet regaled with.

Imagine an immenſe globe of 150 feet diameter, and 200 in height, gilt, bearing on the top an enormous crown, ſparkling with well imitated precious ſtones of various colours; to this globe was annexed a building of the moſt beautiful architecture of the Doric order, formed of pumice-ſtone, and ſurrounded by a terras or gallery, railed in with orange-trees and lemon. This wonderful machine roſe majeſtically to the heavens, in a clear ſky, at noon, in ſight of an applauding multitude, carrying with it an orcheſtra of eight capital performers, whoſe muſic, for the ſhort time it could be heard, had a moſt ſublime effect. In about twenty-ſeven minutes it had diſappeared by a perpendicular aſcent; nor could the people diſcover any appearance of it by the beſt teleſcopes. It was exactly twelve o'clock when the machine began to riſe, and at two it had not been again viſible. An anxiety ſeemed to prevail amongſt all the ſpectators, ſome offering up prayers for the ſafety of the travellers, while others were of opinion that God had taken them into heaven. But their acclamations were exceſſive, when at 13 minutes after three, they obſerved a ſmall ſpeck in the air, at an immenſe diſtance, which ſoon ſhowed itſelf to be the wiſhed-for machine, which gradually deſcended till it reached the earth, at about a mile diſtant from the place of its aſcent, which was from a plain eaſtward of the town. Every thing ſucceeded well, and the aerial navigators trode the earth in ſafety again, after their ſurpriſing flight!——Beſides the above mentioned orcheſtra, and two perſons (who had contrived the machine), who were there to regulate it, there went up ſeveral perſons of rank, conſiſting of three Neapolitan noblemen, a French, three Spaniſh, and an Engliſh gentleman. On their return they were taken to court in the royal carriages, amidſt the inconceivable acclamations of a delighted people. Their account of what they experienced and obſerved in their flight will be ſpeedily publiſhed; at preſent they affirm that they mounted to the height of twelve Italian miles. It is reported now, that each adventurer will receive ſome diſtinguiſhed honour or reward from the two ſovereigns, who were witneſſes to the whole: And Signor Antonio Lippetti, who had the conduct of the affair, has been rewarded with 2000 l. Sterling, and a patent of nobility.

The globe was formed of the ſkins of kids, and covered with ſilk inſide and out; with an elaſtic gum over it, which took the gilding extremely well: It required ſeveral hours filling with inflammable air, but when full was ſo cloſely ſtopped that nothing could evaporate.

Receipt to prevent Infection from Fevers, which was made uſe of in the Plague at Marſeilles.

TAKE of rue, wormwood, ſage, lavender, mint, and roſemary, of each one handful; put theſe altogether with a gallon of the beſt vinegar into a ſtone pan covered over with paſte, and let it ſtand within the warmth of a fire to infuſe for eight days; then ſtrain it off, and to every quart bottle put three quarters of an ounce of camphire. Rub the temples and loins with this preparation before going out in the morning, waſh the mouth, and ſnuff up ſome of it into the noſtrils, and carry a piece of ſponge that has been dipped in it, in order to ſmell it pretty often.

BON MOT.

DURING the late conteſted election at Colcheſter, the returning officer, who is a miller, received many heavy tokens of the mob's diſpleaſure, on account of ſome deciſion which they deemed illegal. Not a little agitated on the occaſion, he turned round to Mr Rigby, and ſaid, he hoped to God he was ſafe in what he had done?—"Oh yes," rejoins Mr R——, "as ſafe as a *thief* in a *mill*."

POETRY.

The INDOLENT. By Mr S. Collins.

SCORCH'D by meridian funſhine, on his bed
Behold the ſluggard rear his Gorgon head!
No decent cap his knotted hair confines,
That all, in ſweaty ſtrings, his neck entwines: [eyes,
And now he yawns, and rubs his gummy
And meditates the vaſt deſign—to riſe.
Now, fairly entered in the liſts of Fame,
He kicks the bed cloaths from his reeking frame; [call,
Then counts the clock, unheedful of its
And frames quaint emblems on the cobweb'd-wall.
Now, with what muſcular exertion, ſee
He draws his ſtocking almoſt to the knee:
Till now, exhauſted in the glorious ſtriſe,
He mourns the weary lot of human life;
With half a mind to drop at once the rein,
And, but for breakfaſt, fall aſleep again;
Till, ſlouching ſlipſhod down from ſtair to ſtair,
He flings him liſtleſs on the neareſt chair:
In two hours more, has mumbled o'er the news,
His garters ty'd, and buckled up his ſhoes.
Now for ſome funny bank, or ſhady grove,
Where from the buz of buſ'neſs to remove,
To count the tardy minutes as they paſs,
Lure the coy fiſh, or ſlumber on the graſs;
Nor, till the weſtern clouds imbrown the day, [way.
The fool admires how time has ſlept a-
'Tis thus with life: neglect the morning hour,
And all the latent virtues loſe their pow'r;
Neglect the youthful hour, and Vice, at hand, [mand:
Steals o'er the mind an abſolute com-
For Vice and Indolence but change in name; [frame.
This rules the mortal, that the mental

EPITAPH.

ENTOMB'D beneath this lofty tree
A mortal lies of low degree.
A ſtrict obſerver from his youth
Of that important virtue, truth.
He never with a ſelfiſh view
Was known to ſpeak a word untrue.
His temper lively, yet as mild
And harmleſs as a new-born child.
He never ſlandered friend or foe,
Nor triumph'd in another's woe;
And tho', when young, he us'd to roam,
For years he lov'd his little home:
Securely there he laid him down,
Nor fear'd the world's ill-natur'd frown:
No wild ambitious thoughts poſſeſt
His quiet, unaſpiring breaſt.
He envied neither wealth nor power,
Enjoying ſtill the preſent hour:
Contented with his daily bread,
Each night he ſought his peaceful bed:
Stranger to vice he knew no fear,
As life's important end drew near;
He breath'd his laſt without a ſigh,
And ſhew'd how Innocence ſhould die.
Bluſh, reader, while theſe lines you ſcan,
Here lies a MONKEY, not a man.

ART and NATURE.

WHAT's wit, or eloquence, or fancy's art, [mind?
Without the nobler virtues of the
Are they not machinations to impart
Subtle deluſions to betray mankind?

With cunning fraught, and harmoniz'd to ſound, [ceed?
From N—h what tides of rhetoric pro-
Will words *enlighten*, which our *ſenſe confound*, [deed?
Can *they* be balanc'd with one generous

While Falſehood ever wears a thick diſguiſe, [quires;
Plain ſimple Truth no ornament re-
By ſophiſtry, vain P——YS would be wiſe,
But artleſs D—PSTER *honeſty* admires.

To Miſs FREDERICK, *ſinging, and playing on the Harpſichord.* By the Right Hon. CHARLES FOX.

WHEN Orpheus touched the trembling ſtring,
He tam'd, as ancient poets ſing,
The Lybian lion's rage;
He could the foreſt from the hill
Move downwards, bending to his will,
And the loud ſtorm aſſuage.

The liſt'ning dolphin willing bore
Arion to the friendly ſhore,
Charm'd with his lenient ſong;
And while he ſoftly ſung and play'd,
The ſweet muſician ſafe convey'd
The threat'ning waves along.

But, *Frederick*, when thou ſtrik'ſt the chord,
Phœbus himſelf, in juſt reward
For merit ſuch as thine,
Attunes thy voice, directs thy lyre,
And bids each ſiſter Muſe admire,
Leſt ſhe with envy pine.

REVIEW.

The CONFESSIONS *of* J. J. ROUSSEAU: *with the Reveries of a Solitary Walker. Tranſlated from the* French. 2 *Vols.* 12*mo.* 6*s.* Bew, London.

THIS is perhaps one of the moſt ſingular productions that ever iſſued from the preſs. Rouſſeau in this piece is employed in pourtraying a faithful picture of himſelf; and in a ſolemn apoſtrophe to the Divine Being he affirms, that he has not concealed the truth in any particular. "I have expoſed myſelf, ſays he, as I was, contemptible and vile, ſometimes; at others, good, generous, and ſublime. Eternal Being! aſſemble around me the numberleſs throng of my fellow-mortals; let them liſten to my confeſſions, let them lament at my unworthineſs, let them bluſh at my miſery. Let each of them in his turn lay open his heart with the ſame ſincerity, at the foot of thy throne, and then ſay, if he dare, *I was better than that man.*"

In the proſecution of his work, it is but too obvious that Rouſſeau acts up to his profeſſions, and exhibits, without reſerve, the motely ſcenes of his life. From his childhood to his old age, we have not only the detail of his adventures, but the progreſſion of his ideas. He alſo peculiariſes his moſt ſecret crimes; and while he lifts up the veil from his turpitude, he diſplays his regret and repentance. The paſſions which by turns tore and agitated him are minutely deſcribed; at the ſame time that we are ſtruck with the unbluſhing fidelity of his pencil, we admire the powers of his mind. Our pleaſure, however, is not unmixed. His elevation, though far above the common level of humanity, appears not to have been an object of envy. His irkſome pride, and his endleſs inquietudes, were perpetually embittering his days; and all his enjoyments were daſhed with ſuſpicions and miſery.

The account he gives of his youth is exceedingly entertaining. Every thing is peculiar, romantic, and marked. In the ſixth year of his age he had read the Lives of Plutarch and other hiſtorical works.

"Inceſſantly occupied with Rome or Athens, living in a manner with their great men, myſelf born citizen of a republic, and ſon to a father whoſe love of his country was his ruling paſſion, I glowed at his example; I thought myſelf Greek or Roman; I was transformed into the perſon whoſe life I read; the recital of an act of conſtancy and intrepidity which ſtruck me, rendered my eyes fiery, and my voice ſtrong. One day at table, reciting the ſtory of Scævola, they were affrighted to ſee me go forward, and hold my hand over a chafing-diſh to repreſent his action."

In his eighth year, Miſs Lambercier, who took a charge in his education, uſed at times to chaſtiſe him; and he was careful to commit faults in order to provoke her. She perceived that his puniſhment was a matter of ſenſuality to him; and at this tender age ſhe was therefore led to conſider him as a great boy.

"As Miſs Lambercier had a mother's affection for us, ſhe had alſo the authority, and ſometimes carried it ſo far as to inflict on us the puniſhment of infants, when we deſerved it. She confined herſelf long enough to menaces, and menaces were ſo new to me as to ſeem very dreadful; but after their execution, I found them leſs terrible in the proof than in the expectation; and, what is more extraordinary, the chaſtiſement drew my affection ſtill more towards her who gave it. Nothing leſs than the reality of this affection, and all my natural mildneſs, could have prevented me from ſeeing a return of the ſame treatment in deſerving it: for I felt in my grief, and even in my ſhame, a mixture of ſenſuality which left more deſire than fear to experience it again from the ſame hand."

In this example, of which, however, we have induſtriouſly avoided to tranſcribe what is moſt exceptionable, our readers will perceive the nature of that refined depravity which runs through the preſent volumes. To be minuter in explaining it would be indecent. It is notwithſtanding our duty to hint at it, and to beſtow our diſapprobation. Rouſſeau, even in his vices, maintains the excentricity of his character; and his Confeſſions, which may be conſidered as the records of his ſhame, while they may be read with advantage by men of underſtanding, who can ſpeculate coolly on the aberrations and follies of the human race, will prove detrimental to inferior perſons, by inflaming their ſenſes and imaginations.

The prejudices of this iſolated man

grew with his years; and the unſettled manner of his life expoſing him to perpetual adventures, ſupplied the opportunities that ſerved completely to diſturb his eaſe, and to communicate the ſable tinge to his opinions. He exhibits himſelf in a wide variety of ſituations, and as engaged in the moſt oppoſite occupations. He was at times a traveller, a fidler, an engraver, a footman, a debauchee, a thief, a religious convert, a philoſopher, and an author. His amours, however, are the circumſtances which recurred the oftenеſt to his memory, and which took the faſteſt hold of his fancy. But in whatever employment he found himſelf, his propenſity to melancholy ever diſturbed his happineſs, and caſt a gloom over his exiſtence.

His mind, ſo open to ſenſibility and paſſion, gives a charm to his narratives. They are lively, intereſting, and pathetic. His language correſponds with the ardour of his feelings. He paints like a maſter; and his figures ſpeak on the canvas.

To his Confeſſions are added his Reveries. They are a very proper ſequel to them, and were written in his old age. All his antipathies were now unalterably rooted. He had conceived that all mankind had entered into a confederacy againſt him; and this chimera appears gradually to have impaired his intellects. In his walks, every incident that happened ſerved to ruffle him; and while he conſidered it as in connection with his paſt misfortunes, he held it to be a proof irreſragable of the conſpiracy which had been formed againſt him. His ſpleen, his pride, his indignation, his ſuſpicions, his memory, and his genius itſelf, were inexhauſtible ſources of affliction to him. But his lamentations, though unmanly and ill-founded, are engaging and eloquent; his grief and expoſtulations affect the reader with tenderneſs; and we ſhut his book under the workings of a mingled ſentiment of admiration, diſpleaſure, and ſorrow.

As a ſpecimen of this performance of Rouſſeau, we ſhall exhibit his firſt walk or reverie.

"Here I am, then, alone on the earth, having neither brother, neighbour, friend, or ſociety but myſelf. The moſt ſociable or the moſt friendly of mankind is proſcribed from the reſt by univerſal conſent. They have ſought in the refinements of their malice to find out that torment which could moſt afflict my tender heart; they have violently broken every tie which held me to them: I had loved mankind in ſpite of themſelves. They had no other means than ceaſing to be ſuch of avoiding my affection. They are therefore unknown foreigners; nothing, in fact, to me, ſince they will have it ſo. But I, withdrawn from them and from every thing, what am I then? This remains to be ſought into. Unfortunately, this reſearch muſt be preceded by a view of my ſituation. This is an idea through which I muſt neceſſarily paſs, to arrive from them to me.

"For fifteen years and more that I am in this ſtrange ſituation, it ſtill ſeems to me a dream. I continually imagine that an indigeſtion troubles me, that I ſleep badly, and that I am going to awake quite eaſed of all my pain, and am once more with my friends. Yes, without doubt, I muſt, without perceiving it, have ſkipped from labour to reſt, or rather from life to death. Torn, I don't know how, from the order of things, I find myſelf precipitated into an incomprehenſible chaos, where I can't diſtinguiſh the leaſt thing; and the more I reflect on my preſent ſituation, the leſs I comprehend where I am.

"Ah! how could I foreſee the fate which awaited me? How can I yet conceive it, at this moment that I am devoted to it? Could I, in my right ſenſes, ſuppoſe a time when I, the ſame man I was, the ſame I ſtill am, ſhould be called, ſhould be held, without the leaſt doubt, a monſter, a corrupter of mankind, an aſſaſſin; that I ſhould become the averſion of the human race, the ſport of the rabble; that all the ſalutation I ſhould receive from thoſe who paſſed me would be ſpitting at me; that a whole generation would divert themſelves, by common accord, in burying me alive? When this ſtrange revolution took place, taken unprepared, I was at firſt loſt as in a maze. My agitation, my indignation, plunged me into a delirium which ten years were not too much to calm; and in this interval, falling from error to error, from fault to fault, from folly to folly, my imprudence ſupplied the directors of my deſtiny with all the inſtruments they have ingeniouſly ſet to work to fix it without a hope.

"I long violently and vainly contended.—Without addreſs, without art, with-

out diſſimulation, without prudence, frank, open, impatient, choleric, I, by contending, only entangled myſelf the more, and inceſſantly furniſhed them with new matter, which they took care never to neglect. Finding, at laſt, all my efforts vain, and torturing myſelf to no purpoſe, I took the only method which remained to be taken, that of ſubmitting to my deſtiny, without any longer wreſtling with neceſſity. I found in this reſignation a reward for all my misfortunes, in the tranquility it procured me, and which could not be united to the continual labour of a reſiſtance as painful as unprofitable.

"Another thing has contributed to this tranquility. In all the refinements of their malice, my perſecutors omitted one which their animoſity cauſed them to forget; which was ſo amply to regulate its effects, that they might feed and renew my affliction without ceaſing, in continually holding up ſome new expectation. Had they had the addreſs to have left me a ſpark of hope, they would ſtill have had me that way. They might yet make me their ſport by ſome falſe glimmering, and afterwards wound me by a torture continually new for my fruſtrated hopes. But they exhauſted all their reſources too ſoon; by leaving me nothing, they had alſo deprived themſelves of all. The calumny, the depreſſion, the deriſion, the ignominy they have heaped upon me, are no more ſuſceptible of augmentation than mitigation; we are equally unable, they to aggravate, and I to extricate myſelf from them. They were in ſo great a hurry to fill up the meaſure of my miſery, that no human power, aſſiſted by all the ſubtlety of hell, could any longer add to it. Even phyſical pain, inſtead of increaſing my ſufferings, would only divert them. By extorting ſhrieks from me, they might perhaps exempt me from grief, and the wounds in my body might have eaſed thoſe of my heart.

"What more have I to fear from them, ſince all is ended? Not being able to make my ſituation worſe, they can no longer fill me with alarms. The uneaſineſs and dread of the evils from which they have for ever delivered me is ſome comfort. Real misfortunes have very little effect upon me; I eaſily determine on thoſe I feel, but not on thoſe I dread. My affrighted imagination combines, turns, extends, and increaſes them. Their expectation terrifies me an hundred times more than their preſence, and the threat is more terrible than the ſtroke. The moment they reach me, the event, removing every thing they had imaginary, reduces them to their real value. I then find them much leſs than I had imagined, and even amidſt my ſufferings I feel myſelf eaſed. In this ſtate, freed from any freſh fears, and delivered from uneaſineſs and hope, habit alone will ſuffice daily to render a ſituation more ſupportable which nothing can make worſe; and ſtill, as my feelings are dulled by their duration, they have no farther means of enlivening them. This is the ſervice my perſecutors have rendered me, by exhauſting without end every weapon of their animoſity. They have deprived themſelves of all power over me, and I may in future laugh at them.

"It is not quite two months that an entire calm is reſtored to my mind. It is long ſince I had no more fears; but I ſtill hoped, and theſe hopes ſometimes nurſed, ſometimes fruſtrated, were a ſcuffle in which a thouſand different paſſions were continually engaged. An event, as melancholy as unexpected, has at laſt wiped from my heart this feeble glimmering of hope, and has ſhewn me my fate, fixed without return here below. Since that time I have reſigned myſelf without reſerve, and peace has returned again.

"As ſoon as I began to perceive the whole ſcope of the plot, I for ever gave up the idea of regaining the public favour during life; and through the impoſſibility of this being reciprocal, it would, in future, be uſeleſs to me. Mankind in vain might ſeek me again; they would find me no more. From the diſdain they have inſpired me with, their converſation would be inſipid, and even a burden on me; I am a thouſand times more happy in my ſolitude than I could poſſibly be in living amongſt them. They have torn from my heart all the ſweets of ſociety. They could not grow there anew at my age; it is too late. Let them hereafter ſeek my good or my harm, all is indifferent to me from them; and whatever they may do, my cotemporaries ſhall ever be nothing to me.

"But yet I depended on the future; I hoped that a better generation, examining cloſer the judgment of the preſent, and its conduct in reſpect to me, would eaſily perceive the artifice of thoſe who direct it. 'Twas in theſe hopes I wrote

my Dialogues; 'twas that which ſuggeſted to me a thouſand fooliſh attempts to make them paſs to poſterity. Theſe hopes, though diſtant, kept my mind in the ſame agitation as when I ſtill fought, in this age, an honeſt heart; and my expectations, which in vain were far extended, equally rendered me the ſport of the preſent times. I have ſaid, in my Dialogues, on what I founded this hope. I was miſtaken. Happily for me, I have felt it time enough yet to ſee, before my laſt hour, an interval of real eaſe and abſolute repoſe. This interval began at the period I have mentioned, and I have reaſon to believe it will never be interrupted.

"Very few days paſs but new reflections confirm me how much I erred in depending upon a return of the public eſteem, even in a future age, ſince it is conducted, as to what regards me, by guides who never die, in thoſe ſocieties that have a mortal hatred to me. Individuals die, but collective bodies do not. The ſame paſſions are perpetuated, and their vehement malice, immortal as the fiend which inſpires it, has always the ſame activity. When all my private enemies are dead, doctors and orators will ſtill live; and although I had but two bodies as perſecutors, I might be certain they would grant no more peace to my memory after my death than they have granted my perſon during my life-time. Perhaps by length of time, the phyſicians, whom I really offended, might be appeaſed; but the orators, whom I loved, eſteemed, in whom I had every confidence, and whom I never offended, the orators, churchmen, and demi-monks, will be for ever implacable; their own iniquity makes my crime, which their ſelfiſhneſs will never pardon; and the public, whoſe animoſity they will inceſſantly take care to feed and revive, will be appeaſed no ſooner than themſelves.

"All is at an end for me in this world. No one can do me good or harm. I have nothing more to hope or fear; and here I am tranquil in the midſt of an abyſs, poor unfortunate mortal, but impaſſable as God himſelf.

"Every thing external is, in future, foreign to me. I have no longer neighbour, friend, or brother alive. I am on the earth as in a foreign planet into which I fell from that I inhabited. If I have a knowledge of any thing around me, it is only objects which afflict and rend my heart; and I cannot look on any thing which touches or ſurrounds me, without perceiving ſubject for diſdain which provokes, or of grief which afflicts me. Let us therefore remove from my mind every painful object which might employ my thoughts as ſorrowfully as uſeleſsly. Alone for the reſt of my life, ſince I find conſolation, hope, and peace in myſelf only, I ought or will not employ my thoughts but on myſelf. 'Tis in this ſtate I return to the ſevere and ſincere enquiry I formerly called my Confeſſions. I conſecrate my laſt days to the ſtudy of myſelf, and to prepare before-hand the account I muſt ſoon give of my actions. Let me entirely devote myſelf to the charms of converſing with my ſoul, ſince it is the only thing of which I cannot be deprived by man. If, by dint of reflecting on my internal diſpoſitions, I arrive at ordering them better, and correcting the evil which may have lurked there, my meditations will not be entirely uſeleſs; and though I am of no value on the earth, I ſhall not entirely loſe my latter days. The leiſure part of my daily walks has often been filled by delightful contemplation, whoſe remembrance I am ſorry to have loſt. I ſhall determine on writing thoſe which may again ſtrike me; every time I read them I ſhall enjoy them over again. I will forget my misfortunes, my perſecutors, their revilings, by reflecting on the prize my heart has merited."

Some ſuſpicions have been entertained of the genuineneſs of the volumes before us. But we muſt confeſs, that we can perceive no ſufficient reaſon to doubt their authenticity. If, however, they ſhould prove to be an impoſition or a forgery, we ſhall rejoice in this circumſtance for the ſake of Rouſſeau. At the ſame time, we ſhall be ready to allow the greateſt merit to the author. If this be an imitation, it is that of a great maſter.

E.

ANECDOTES *of the* RUSSIAN EMPIRE. *In a Series of Letters, written a few Years ago, from St* Peterſburgh.

(*Continued from our laſt, p* 18.)

MR RICHARDSON appears to have had good opportunities of making remarks on the manners of the Ruſſians. Thus, in the following extract, he

deſcribes the diſtribution of prizes to ſtudents in the academy of St Peterſburgh, and the repreſentation of a Ruſſian tragedy.

"I was lately preſent at a diſtribution of prizes to ſtudents educated in the academy of arts and ſciences. I paſſed through two large rooms, where the boys, dreſſed in white uniforms, were drawn up in two ranks; and went into a third, where the great Duke, and other academicians, were ſeated round a table, on which were placed ſpecimens of hand-writing and drawing, executed by the ſcholars. There were alſo preſent many ladies and gentlemen of the court. Count Betſkoy began the ceremony by addreſſing a ſpeech to the Grand Duke, in which he recommended the ſeminary to his protection. To this his Imperial Highneſs replied, "As the welfare of Ruſſia ſhall ever the object neareſt my heart, and as the proper education of youth is of ſo much conſequence in every well-ordered ſtate, it claims, and ſhall ever obtain, my conſtant attention." He ſpoke ſlowly, and with propriety, yet not without the diffidence of an amiable boy. On ſitting down, he turned ſmiling to Count Panin, his governor, with the air of one aſking, Have I acquitted myſelf aright? The Count ſeemed to aſſent, and I thought a tear roſe in his eye. I was told that the Empreſs was preſent among the ladies; but though this might be known to them, ſhe did not chuſe upon that occaſion to be acknowledged as Empreſs. The mother wiſhed to obſerve her ſon. It was the firſt time he had ſpoken in public; and the mother's heart muſt have thrilled with pleaſure. I almoſt wept for joy.

After this the company paſſed into another room, where the prizes were diſtributed. They were firſt preſented to the ladies, and by them to the boys. The ſcene was amuſing; and was enlivened at intervals by a band of muſicians in an adjoining receſs. Tell me now, would not a ſtranger, on witneſſing ſuch a ſcene, on ſeeing one of the moſt powerful ſovereigns on earth, and the preſumptive heir of this mighty empire, ſo attentive to the welfare and improvement of their people, would he not feel rapture, approve, and applaud? Yet when I expreſs thoſe ſentiments, there are perſons who ſhake their heads; who tell me, this academy has ſubſiſted for many years, and what have they done? It may be mentioned with oſtentatious pomp in a news-paper, or by Voltaire, and nothing elſe is intended. Such ſpeeches are mortifying; and, notwithſtanding their authority, I muſt ſay, that even admitting the love of fame to be the ſole motive, the means uſed are far more laudable than thoſe practiſed by Princes, who purſue the objects of their ambition, by adding one inhuman act to another.

The academy mentioned above was founded in a former reign. But at a convent, a few verſts from St Peterſburgh, there is an eſtabliſhment for the education of young women, by her preſent Majeſty. It ſomewhat reſembles that of St Cyr, founded by M. Maintenon; and the Empreſs maintains in it two hundred girls, from ſix to eighteen years old. They are divided into two claſſes: the firſt conſiſts of the children of officers above the rank of Major inclusive; and the ſecond conſiſts of the children of inferior officers; the firſt are inſtructed in elegant and polite accompliſhments; and the ſecond, together with muſic and dancing, are taught to work in all female employments. All their expences, comprehending even their dreſs, are defrayed by the Empreſs.

I was preſent, ſome time ago, at an entertainment conſiſting of dances of different kinds, which they exhibited in preſence of the Grand Duke, and many of the nobility. It began with dances by girls of the ſecond claſs, who were uniformly dreſſed in brown petticoats, blue jackets, white aprons, white caps and handkerchiefs. They were ſucceeded by thoſe of the firſt diviſion, who were dreſſed in court-dreſſes of different colours; excepting that the younger part was uniformly in white, trimmed with blue.—But the moſt amuſing exerciſe I have ſeen them exhibit was the repreſentation of a Ruſſian tragedy. It was repreſented not only with propriety, but with elegance, and not only ſo, but with great theatrical ability. The flowing hair, the ſparkling blue eyes, the fine figure and graceful motions of the young lady who performed the principal character; her melodious voice, and exquiſite but well-regulated ſenſibility, charmed, and even tranſported, her audience. Near where I ſat was an old venerable officer;

during the firſt ſcenes, his ſolicitude and anxiety were very apparent; they were ſoon changed into joy: his emotions flowed out in tears: ſhe was his grandchild.

Yet blue eyes, fine figure, and melodious voice, have no effect on thoſe who ſhake their heads, and make remarks.—They chill the ardour of your applauſe by aſking, what proviſion is made for theſe young ladies after they leave the convent? and whether their education be ſuited to their fortune or expectations? and whether, if they ſhould not ſoon get huſbands, they will be inclined, after all this muſic and dancing, and tragedizing, to ſubmit to the rigid laws of a nunnery?—Queſtion-aſking, as I obſerved at the beginning of this letter, is no pleaſant buſineſs; and the above queſtions ſeemed to me particularly diſagreeable, as I was not juſt furniſhed with fit replies. I ought to have mentioned, that the nuns reſident in this convent, ſome of whom were preſent at the above-mentioned entertainments, have it in charge to inſtruct the young ladies in religious knowledge."

Theſe extracts will furniſh a general idea of the entertainment to be met with in theſe Anecdotes, and of the talents of the author for compoſition.——Nor do we exhibit them as the moſt favourable ſpecimens which we could have found in illuſtration of his merit; for there are many letters in this collection which are ſuperior to thoſe we have given. But for the preſent they may poſſibly amuſe our readers; and, in a future number, we ſhall take an opportunity to lay before them what we have farther to obſerve concerning the volume now before us. E.

The MEANS *of effectually preventing* THEFT *and* ROBBERY; *together with our preſent cruel Puniſhments of theſe and other Crimes: The Means of immediately ſuppreſſing vagrant Beggary; of ſpeedily aboliſhing our Poor's Rates; and of relieving the preſent Oppreſſion of our labouring Commonalty.* 8vo. 2s.

THIS Pamphlet ſeems to be written with the beſt of all views, the welfare of the public. The office of Juſtice of the Peace, the author repreſents to have been formerly elective by the people, and he divides the preſent holders of the office into two claſſes; thoſe who apply for the appointment as an honorary diſtinction, in which claſs he ranks the greater part of the country juſtices, and thoſe who are emphatically ſtiled trading juſtices. All the diſorders in our police he aſcribes to the appointment to this office being engroſſed by the Crown, and recommends an annual election of juſtices being reſtored to the people.

Having thus eſtabliſhed in idea a new ſet of conſtitutional magiſtrates, he proceeds to lay open his plan. He adviſes that a board of men of property be formed in each county, with a treaſury eſtabliſhment to receive, as long as ſhall be neceſſary, all the poor's rates in the county. Waſte land is to be bought, to be paid for at diſtant periods, on intereſt during the intermediate time; bailiffs, or overſeers to be engaged; cattle and implements to be provided; and the able part of the poor to be employed in raiſing hemp, flax, and other ſuitable articles, who are to be paid for their labour, to have habitations provided for them, but to maintain themſelves. This mode of employment will infuſe a ſpirit of activity and independence into them. The hemp and flax, when raiſed, will furniſh employment for all the reſt who are able to do any thing; ſo that the poor and the tax for maintaining them, will ſoon dwindle to a trifle; while a ſtrict execution of the laws againſt vagrants will force them into employment alſo, and put a total ſtop to beggary and thieving. As faſt as the land is improved, it may be leaſed out; and the concerns of the county boards will in courſe of time proportionally diminiſh; for as culture increaſes, pariſh poor muſt be reduced.

Leſt his ſcheme ſhould be ridiculed as viſionary, he appeals to the Auſtrian Netherlands, where the inhabitants labouring under like grievances, but without the reſource of a poor's fund, lately carried into execution a ſimilar plan by an unknown individual, with all the ſucceſs here promiſed.

To our avidity for trade, he aſcribes the neglect of agriculture, and aſtoniſhing increaſe of our deſtitute poor; and adds, that the want of attention in government to the regulation of our internal police, allows full ſcope to the diſorder. His obſervations on this ſubject, being plain and familiar, we ſhall lay before our readers in his own words:

" Now, as the preſent aim is to prevail on the public to engage in this beneficial undertaking of cultivation, forwhich it is thus completely provided in every reſpect, poſſibly that object may appear in a more advantageous light, if placed in a contracted and familiar point of view; by ſuppoſing the nation to be in the ſituation of an individual poſſeſſed of an extenſive eſtate in land, conſulting with a friend on the preſent deranged ſtate of his finances; and in particular relating to this poor concern. An account is produced under the title of, Account of expenditure of ſums collected for poor rates, in the year 1782, under the following articles: Item, To removing . . . thouſand paupers from one pariſh, town, or vill, to another, ſome of them three times . . . hundred thouſand miles, at . . . per mile, is . . . thouſand pounds. Item, To litigating the legal ſettlement of . . thouſand paupers, at the quarter ſeſſions, and in the Court of King's Bench, with overſeers expences attending thereon, attornies, agents, &c. bills, fees, &c. is . . . hundred thouſand pounds. Item, to ſundry miſcellaneous expences in the management of the poor's concerns, with overſeers dinners, perquiſites for trouble and attendance, &c. in . . . thouſand pariſhes, towns, and vills, is . . . hundred thouſand pounds. Carried out altogether . . . millions. Item, To caſh paid contractors for maintaining . . . hundred thouſand paupers in . . . thouſand pariſhes, towns, and vills, at . . . pence a head.—Carried out . . . millions.—Sum total four or five millions. Such an extraordinary reckoning would, no doubt, aſtoniſh the friend; he would queſtion the Squire as to the propriety or neceſſity of expending thoſe millions on this affair of removing ſo many paupers from one farm to another; on diſputing, at ſuch an enormous charge, whether they ſhould live at his expence on this farm or on that; and on theſe fooliſh, ignorant, and knaviſh charges of ſo many thouſand overſeers. He would likewiſe enquire into the meaning of that other ſingle article, of millions paid to contractors, for ſubſiſting ſo many hundred thouſand ſouls at his coſt, in abſolute idleneſs; beſides, about one million more extorted and ſtole by vagrant beggars; who, all of them, livingt hus in abſolute idleneſs, tho' by far the greater part of them are capable of ſtrong labour, join themſelves with other idle people to rob, plundered, and cut the throats of the honeſt, induſtrious tenants; who are otherwiſe ſo grievouſly racked in their rents, that they can ſcarcely ſubſiſt themſelves. Surely, the Squire would honeſtly confeſs that, hitherto, he had been ſo much taken up otherwiſe, as never to look into this matter himſelf, but had truſted every thing to the management of his ſteward; who, he now plainly perceived, had been minding his own intereſt ſo much, that he had never beſtowed one thought on his maſter's concerns. The friend would naturally adviſe the Squire thus: You have, without doubt, been hitherto groſſly abuſed by this ſteward; and your affairs have thereby been brought into great diſtreſs; but ſtill your caſe is not deſperate: firſt, you muſt rely no longer on this ſteward; begin to look into your own affairs: and, as to this particular matter, you have a great part of your extenſive eſtate lying waſte through his negligence, and not fetching you a ſhilling though highly improveable: ſet about improving that waſte part of your eſtate without delay; you have ſtore of bullocks ready reared for your table: theſe will ſuffice for the laborious part of the work, without coſting you the leaſt expence: the other neceſſary articles are ſpeedily provided, for a ſum that is a trifle to you; and, as for theſe idle poor, ſet them immediately to this uſeful work, and pay them fair wages for their labour: out of this ſame money that is at preſent waſted on maintaining them in idleneſs, and on other fooliſh and knaviſh purpoſes: you will find that, inſtead of being an uſeleſs, noxious burden to your eſtate, they will, in a little time, become as induſtrious and uſeful as any of your tenants; the annual revenue of your eſtate will daily increaſe; and of courſe its total value: and plenty, good order, and content, over your whole domain, will take place of anarchy, plundering, miſery, and deſpair.

" And, truly, what hath been now ſaid, being exactly the caſe of the nation, would be altogether ſufficient on this particular head, did it not become neceſſary to provide againſt objections and difficulties that may be ſtarted. And poſſibly, one of theſe may be founded on the expence of paying theſe preſent paupers ſuch high wages out of the public purſe, as it may be termed. But, ſurely, the caſe of the public, in this particular, would dif-

fer nothing from that of the farmer, who pays wages to his labourer, and has it returned to him by the cultivation of his lands. Nor doth it make the ſmalleſt difference that this labourer, receiving wages, was yeſterday a pauper maintained idly without wages, upon a wretched ſtipulated allowance that was ſtill paid by the public. For the moment he is put to work, he changes his condition, from that of an uſeleſs, miſerable wretch, living upon extorted charity, to that of an induſtrious labourer, ſubſiſting honeſtly upon wages juſtly earned, as the fair value of his work. And, for the ſame reaſon, that preſent uſeleſs burdenſome tax inſtantaneouſly changes its ſtyle, from this of Poor Rates, to that of a fund for improving and cultivating the waſte lands in England and Wales. And upon the ſame fair and reaſonable terms, with reſpect to the public, would ſtand all thoſe preſent idle, able-bodied vagrant beggars of both ſexes, who ſhould take to labour. The wages they would in ſuch caſe receive would be honeſtly earned, by value in work, to be returned to the public from the improved lands. Nay, and upon the like equitable terms would ſtand all thoſe who at preſent live by thieving, plundering, and proſtitution; the moment they betake themſelves to labour, they become honeſt citizens entitled to wages.

"But what an honourable and laudable field would this open, to feed thoſe deſerving citizens who have riſked their lives in defence of their country; and who, in return, are, at preſent, turned adrift, to ſtarve or be hanged, the moment their ſervice ceaſes to be neceſſary. For, in their preſent ſituation, having no poſſibility of afterwards obtaining an honeſt employ, their diſcharge from the army is, in effect, an unavoidable doom either to ſtarve, or to ſteal and be hanged.

"Surely, here is a field ample enough for uſefully employing all thoſe, and more, without burdening the public, ſo long as there is an acre of waſte land in England or Wales capable of cultivation. And, if there are not fields ſufficient in this iſland of the iſland; Scotland holds forth millions of acres that will return the expence and trouble of cultivation. For the earth is an honeſt and grateful debtor; ſhe returns the loan with generous intereſt.—And, certainly, no narrow, confined diſtinctions of country ſhould be thought of in this caſe. England would ſtill reap ſufficient benefit, notwithſtanding Scotland might participate a little: ſo long as it is coloniſing within the bounds of the iſland, it is ſufficient; as, on theſe terms, no ungrateful coloniſt could, or would attempt to wreſt from England the fruits of 200 years expence and attention.

"Here, indeed, it may be invidiouſly demanded, why the Scots cannot do this for themſelves. The reaſon hath been aſſigned; the Scots have not the fund, nor are they capable of raiſing one; no, nor any other nation in Chriſtendom beſides this. The Engliſh alone, who have been inſenſibly and imperceptibly drilled on, ſtep by ſtep, from ſmall beginnings, to accumulate this poor fund to ſuch an enormous amount, as now exceeds the ſtanding revenue of almoſt any one ſtate in Chriſtendom, except herſelf and France; England alone hath a fund ready provided, and equal to this mighty national undertaking."

An Addreſs to the Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty; upon the degenerated, diſſatisfied State of the Britiſh Navy, with Ways and Means to put the Navy upon a more formidable and reſpectable footing, both as to ſhips and men. With a propoſed Regulation for maintaining an Extra-eſtabliſhment of Marines in time of Peace: By a Sailor. 8vo. 2s. Stockdale, London.

THE author of this addreſs aſcribes the diſaffected ſtate of our navy to the haſty and undue promotion of the ſons of great families to the important offices of lieutenants and poſt-captains: and to the palpable neglect that is often ſhewn to humble but well atteſted merit. He ſeems to be well acquainted with the ſentiments of Britiſh tars. And in conſequence of this knowledge, he affirms that no very young commander will ever be chearfully obeyed.

Among a variety of intereſting particulars in this publication, humanity points out the following to the Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, and indeed to all who may be able, in any way, to operate towards the removal of ſo great grievances.

"The extreme cruelty in harraſſing our ſeamen about, from ſhip to ſhip, during the late war; who, after arriving from long and diſtreſſing voyages, were compelled to depart immediately, on more cruel and deſtructive ſervices, with the mortification of not being enabled to

ſee their families, nor even to receive any part of their wages: were proceedings extremely diſtreſſing to ſeamen, and have contributed to their hatred and diſguſt of the naval ſervice.——I could name inſtances of ſeamen, who, in the courſe of three or four years ſervitude, had wages to receive for ten or twelve ſhips, which, from their total ignorance of the tedious forms of office, knew no more how to apply for their pay, than a parcel of negroes.

"PEACE being now eſtabliſhed, they who have wages due for various ſhips, are obliged to appear, at the reſpective ſea ports, where the ſhips to which they belonged were paid off, in order to get their pay; and under theſe cruel circumſtances, it often happens, that a ſeaman, paid off at Chatham, in the *Sandwich*, is obliged to go to Plymouth, to receive his pay for the *Standard*; and then to Portſmouth, for the *Perſeverance*; and then to London for the pay of ſome broken-up ſhips in America: and after the poor fellow hath undergone this tireſome round of application, from one port to another, probably at the end of his journey, he will not find himſelf worth a guinea.

"Indeed, ſo trifling is the pay of thoſe unthinking men, that I can eaſily conceive many hundred of them will never be enabled to obtain their wages, under the preſent regulation, which muſt eventually go to the *ſinking fund*.—Theſe are grievances our ſeamen felt abundantly more in, and ſince the late war, than in all our former ones, and which have ſo alarmingly contributed to excite the better part of them to a determined reſolution, of never voluntarily entering again into his Majeſty's ſervice."

This uſeful and intereſting little work unites *practical* with theoretical knowledge, and gives ſeveral directions and regulations which not only tend to the improvement of thoſe who may be employed in active duty, but which furniſh ſalutary hints to thoſe who guide the grand movements. E.

LAURA *and* AUGUSTUS, *an Authentic* STORY *In a Series of Letters. By a young Lady.* 12mo. *3 vols.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* Caſs, London.

WE are inclined to think that this novel is *really* written by a lady, as the title page-bears, and that it does credit both to her head and heart.—The characters are common and natural; the ſituations are probable, affecting, and well conducted, and the whole riſes far above the merit of moſt novels of late years. The author's having fixed the ſcene partly in Grenada and Madeira, affords her imagination fine ſcope for pictureſque deſcription. There are many trifling and unimportant parts in the book; but take it "for all in all," it will both inſtruct and entertain that claſs of readers who delight in works of fancy. E.

RETROSPECTIVE VIEW of POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

A DISSOLUTION of Parliament hath at length been proclaimed. It has been thought extraordinary that this meaſure was not adopted three months ago. But beſides the abſolute neceſſity for the mutiny and ſome other bills being paſſed, there may have been reaſons, founded in private policy, for delaying ſo important a ſtep.——The ſole motive for a diſſolution at this time, is to procure to a Miniſtry, who have the King, Lords, and the people on their ſide, a majority among the repreſentatives of the latter. It is not certain that this could have been effected three months ago. The ſpirit of the people had hardly then begun to ſhow itſelf. Our young Miniſter had not been firmly ſeated in the ſaddle of power. The moſt unreaſonable and factious proceedings of the Oppoſition had not taken place. And to ſettle the proper plans for repreſenting the government boroughs, and for *ſifting* (as it is called) hoſtile members, in order to enſure ſucceſs on a diſſolution, in ſuch circumſtances, required conſiderable time and pains. Beſides, it was politic in Miniſters to allow Oppoſition to run their courſe of violence; for they ſaw, that, as the conduct of the latter grew more haughty and dictatorial, the ſtream of popularity increaſed in favour of Adminiſtration. And if numerous addreſſes may be allowed to be the criterion of the ſenſe of the nation, Mr Pitt is the moſt popular miniſter (at this moment) we ever read of. We may venture, however, to remark, that if the late Miniſters had taken a leſs active part in the meaſures of Oppoſition, and not have forced themſelves forward in every

debate, (by which miſtaken conduct every meaſure ſeemed that of the *coalition*, and not of the Houſe of Commons), an union might have been effected, and the trouble and expence attending a general election might have been ſaved to the nation. But the meaſure is now determined. And we ſincerely wiſh it may have the effect to make the national buſineſs go on without interruption. His Majeſty's anſwer to the Commons is firm, and will aſſuredly draw over numbers to the preſent miniſter.

It was only to a diſſolution of Parliament that the friends of the King and the conſtitution could have recourſe, unleſs they had reſolved to yield up all into the hands of a deſperate faction.

King William, ſoon after his acceſſion to the throne, found that his parliament was torn into factions, each of which contended for the adminiſtration of government. This magnanimous prince knew what was due to the crown he wore, as well as to thoſe powerful chiefs by whoſe means he had obtained it. He reſpected the leaders of the whig party; but he alſo reſpected himſelf, and the great body of the people, between whoſe liberty, and the conſtitutional dignity of the ſovereign, there was a cloſe and intimate connection.—He ſent for the principal perſons in both Houſes of Parliament, and declared his earneſt deſire that all the real grievances of the nation might be immediately redreſſed. He told them that "the crown ſhould not be the worſe for his wearing it, and adviſed them to be contented with his bounty, as far as it *was in his power to beſtow it.* Then, laying his hand upon his ſword, he ſaid, what I cannot accompliſh by entreaties, I will take care to perform with this.—He declared that he would have regard to his own dignity, and the public ſafety, according to his oath, and, with the advice of his council, would adminiſter the government according to the laws." There were as great patriots in the days of King William as in the preſent: yet no man arraigned the conduct of that prince as unconſtitutional, when he choſe rather to be king over a divided parliament, than to give himſelf up to be governed by either party.

Let us ſuppoſe, for a moment, King William III. to fill the throne of England, in ſuch circumſtances as the preſent. As the diſtinguiſhing features of his character were a *veneration for juſtice* and *military courage*, we may naturally conceive that the encroachments made on his royal prerogative, or, in other words, on the conſtitutional law of the country, would move him with the utmoſt indignation. Conſcious of the ſtricteſt regard to the laws, on his part, his reſentment at the uſurpations of the ariſtocratic faction would be in proportion to the purity of his own principles. Accuſtomed to war and civil broils from his earlieſt years, he would not unnaturally anticipate or imagine a conjuncture, in which the wranglings of tongues and the controverſies of pens might be followed, as uſual in other countries, by an appeal to the ſword. In ſuch a ſituation, he would caſt his eyes abroad on the ſtate of his dominions and of the world, that by comparing his advantages with his diſadvantages, his friends with his enemies, he might be able to judge of the ground on which he ſtood.—The honour of the army is on his ſide, and their military habits. The towns and cities throughout England and Scotland, in imitation of the metropolis, and animated by ſimilar feelings, congratulate him on emancipating himſelf, and the nation, from the hands of crafty and deſigning tyrants. The counties too begin to ſpeak the ſame language, in a tone ſtill more reſpectable. A decided majority of the Peers, nearly half the Houſe of Commons, and the bulk of the landed intereſt of Great Britain, range themſelves on the ſide of the King and the People.—— Theſe, with the juſtice of his cauſe, are ſuch powerful encouragements, as would certainly determine ſuch a politic, warlike, and firm prince as King William to hazard all extremities, rather than ſubmit to the yoke of a daring faction.

The people have now reaſon to rejoice that the ſame encouraging circumſtances have operated a ſimilar effect on the good Prince who now fills the throne;—for, if it could have been ſuppoſed that he would ever have been induced to abandon the numerous and reſpectable friends who ſupport him in the preſent criſis, it may be ſafely affirmed, that no ſuch opportunity could ever have been preſented in future, of aſſerting, together with his own, the rights of his people.

Notes to CORRESPONDENTS deferred.